

Mike's Origins Resource

A PhD Creationist's View of Science, Origins,
and the Future Hope of the Human Race



Did the prophets and apostles think Jesus was coming in their day?

[Be sure to see the conclusions at the end of this page.](#)

How much do prophets know? Do prophets have a special connection with God? Yes, we would have to say yes to that question, if we believe the Bible.

Does God tell prophets everything? Apparently not. We really would not expect God to tell them everything. Only what they and the people need. We can determine this from the actual messages they wrote in Scripture.

We will see that the prophets really did not have any better idea of when a prophecy was to happen than those who listened to the prophet themselves. Well, if this is true than if they didn't know when a prophecy was to happen, what were they told?

Let us look at the evidence, the actual scripture to see the answer.

Prophets often were not told when their prophecy will occur.

Daniel had visions from God, yet when he told others about what he saw, they did not understand the visions. Even Daniel did not understand!

26. And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days.
27. And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, **but none understood it.** Daniel 8:26-27
4. But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.
8. And **I heard, but I understood not:** then said I, **O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?**
9. And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for **the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.**
10. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; **but the wise shall understand.**
13. But **go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.** Daniel 12:4,8-10,13

We see from Scripture that Daniel saw visions that both he and those around them could not understand. Even when Daniel asked God for understanding, to know when these things would happen, he was told that he was not to know, only that they were to write the vision down and that he would stand in his lot at the last days.

The Prophets Thought that Jesus was Coming in Their Day

In this group of scripture we will see evidences that God gave hints to all generations that the end, or His soon coming was to happen very soon.

- 14. And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:
- 15. And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; **it shall bruise thy head**, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Genesis 3:14-15

The seed of the woman that will bruise the head of the snake is Jesus. God was predicting the time when Jesus would destroy Satan.

- 1. And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, **I have gotten a man from the LORD**. Genesis 4:1

Some of the newer Bibles have "child" instead of "man". But nowhere else in the Bible or anywhere else is the Hebrew word here translated as "child". There must be a reason why "man" is used instead of "child". Is Eve saying: "maybe this is the Child of promise"? This is the man of promise, the Saviour that comes from God! So, this is another piece of evidence that God has communicated throughout the ages concerning our salvation from ultimate death.

- 14. And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, **Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,**
- 15. **To execute judgment upon all**, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.
- 16. These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.
- 17. But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;
- 18. How that they told you **there should be mockers in the last time**, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.
- 19. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. Jude 1:14-19

Enoch preached the second coming of Jesus in his day, long before the flood of Noah. He spoke of his judgment instead of His more humble first coming. Also Jude speaks of mockers in the end of time. It is clear, he thought that time was near. So, it seems that God had informed the early inhabitants of the earth of the second coming of Jesus, and this is what Enoch preached thinking that Jesus would come in his day!

- 8. By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.
- 9. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:
- 10. **For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.**
- 13. **These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.** Hebrews 11:8-10,13

These verses follow the description of the faith of Able, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Sarah. It is clear that they were looking for that special promise. Although they had not received the things promised, yet they had seen them far ahead and welcomed them. Instead, they all died in faith, not having received the promises.

Abraham is specifically pictured as looking for a city which God is the maker. They believed the promises God gave them and they expected it to happen soon, in their life-time.

- 39. And **these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:**
- 40. **God having provided some better thing for us,** that they without us should not be made perfect. Hebrews 11:39-40

These verses follow the description of the faith of Abraham, Issac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab the harlot, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Japhthah, David, Samuel and the other prophets.

Again, we see that these all, were given "the promise" but never receiving it in their life-time.

Verse 40 is very interesting. It seems to suggest that God has something better for them (the Christians in the early church). It looks like he is suggesting that they will not die before the promise is realized. He is saying that we (in his day) will experience something better than all those who came before because they will receive the promise.

The Apostles Thought that Jesus was Coming in Their Day

In the New Testament the evidence becomes easier to see. John the Baptist preached that the kingdom is at hand so repent.

- 1. In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,
- 2. And saying, **Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**
- 3. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, **Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.** Matthew 3:1-3

In Mark, we see that John is saying: "the time is fulfilled". So, John was saying that the time was right now.

- 14. Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,
- 15. And saying, **The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.** Mark 1:14-15

We see this same point in Matthew: "the time is fulfilled".

- 12. Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee. . . .
- 16. The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.
- 17. From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.** Matthew 4:12,16-17.

Jesus also instructed the disciples to also preach that the Kingdom is at hand.

- 5. These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:
- 6. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
- 7. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Matthew 10:5-7.

In addition Jesus told his disciples that they would not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man

comes. This is an amazing statement!

- 21. And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.
- 22. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.
- 23. But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, **Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.** Matthew 10:21-23

Jesus is not suggesting to the disciples that it will be years before He comes, but He is suggesting that it will be a very short time: "Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the son of man be come". Here is another very interesting quote from Jesus:

- 27. **"For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.**
- 28. Assuredly, I say to you, **there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.**" Matthew 16:27-28

Jesus actually said that some of them that were standing there would not die until they saw the second coming of Jesus!

The language of both Jesus and John the Baptist were very strong. They were both saying, the time is very near. It is now. You better repent!

- 2. Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,
- 3. And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Matthew 11:2-3

What was John the Baptist looking for. Remember, much of John's talk had been on judgement and the end of the world. See what is recorded by Luke:

- 7. Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
- 16. John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost **and with fire:**
- 17. Whose fan is in his hand, and **he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.** Luke 3:7,16-17.

What was John looking for anyway!?

If you were to read the words of George Frideric Handel's Messiah, you will see that he mixed up the language of his music. Some words are on judgement of Christ's second coming. Other text, speak of the suffering of Christ's first coming. Could John the Baptist have done the same thing?

John was confused when Jesus didn't seem to be doing the right things. It is easy to see that John the Baptist confused these two groups of verses relating to Christ's two comings. John was also probably thinking of a literal Kingdom of Israel as well, just like the disciples of Jesus.

Jesus often spoke harsh words to those who had completely given themselves to the control of Satan. See what Jesus said to the scribes and pharisees.

- 27. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.
- 28. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.
- 29. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,
- 30. And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.
- 31. Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

- 32. **Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.**
- 33. **Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?**
- 34. Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:
- 35. That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.
- 36. Verily I say unto you, **All these things shall come upon this generation.**
- 37. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!
- 38. **Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.**
- 39. For I say unto you, **Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.** Matthew 23:27-39.

So Jesus spoke very plainly concerning His judgement on them. One phrase is very definite last day language: All these things shall come upon this generation. This phrase was just one of many evidences of the early church that the end was very near because it was to happen "in this generation".

- 29. And it came to pass, when he was come nigh to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount called the mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples,
- 30. Saying, Go ye into the village over against you; in the which at your entering ye shall find a colt tied, whereon yet never man sat: loose him, and bring him hither.
- 31. And if any man ask you, Why do ye loose him? thus shall ye say unto him, **Because the Lord hath need of him.**
- 32. And they that were sent went their way, and found even as he had said unto them.
- 33. And as they were loosing the colt, the owners thereof said unto them, Why loose ye the colt?
- 34. And they said, **The Lord hath need of him.**
- 35. And they brought him to Jesus: and **they cast their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon.**
- 36. And as he went, **they spread their clothes in the way.**
- 37. And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;
- 38. Saying, **Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.** Luke 19:29-38.

Why would Jesus ride in to Jerusalem on a colt. That was a sign of royalty and that we was going to take command. Again we see that Jesus is giving some very interesting signs about the immediacy of His coming kingdom.

- 15. And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer:
- 16. For I say unto you, **I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.**
- 17. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves:
- 18. For I say unto you, **I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.**
- 19. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.
- 20. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.
- 21. But, behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table.
- 22. And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed!
- 23. And they began to enquire among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing.
- 24. And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest. Luke 22:15-24.

We see that Jesus speaks of not eating again until the kingdom is set up. Jesus spoke so much concerning the nearness of the Kingdom that His disciples thought that it was time to get their pecking order straight. They wanted to be ready, to know who would lead when the kingdom was actually set up.

Why would the disciples argue about their position constantly if they didn't think the kingdom was at that very moment, ready to be set up?

17. And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?
18. And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?
19. And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:
20. And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.
21. But **we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel**: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done. Luke 24: 17-21.

The disappointment of having Jesus die on the cross must have been terrible! They thought He had been the one to restore Judah. Now it seemed hopeless. How could anything happen with Him dead.

But Jesus rose again and was with the disciples for a little while. When He was about to leave them again, the disciples, above everything else, wanted to know when the kingdom would be set up. Let's read it.

6. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, **Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?**
7. And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.
8. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
9. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. Acts 1:6-9.

The disciples, not having received the answer they wanted and on top of that losing Jesus all over again, this time to the clouds, were probably at the ends of their rope. What would they do after this?

Again we pick up the rest of the story.

10. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;
11. Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, **why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.** Acts 1:10-11.

There is no message that the disciples would die first. That they would have to be risen from the dead before they could see it. Again the message suggests that Jesus was coming back in their day.

After Jesus left, His disciples preached the soon appearing of Jesus.

14. But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:
15. For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.
16. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;
17. **And it shall come to pass in the last days**, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:
18. And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out **in those days** of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:
19. And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:
20. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, **before that great and notable day of the Lord come**:
21. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Acts 2:14-21.
37. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles,

Men and brethren, what shall we do?

- 38. Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- 39. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.
- 40. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from **this perverse generation.**
- 41. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.
- 42. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.
- 43. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.
- 44. And all that believed were together, **and had all things common;**
- 45. **And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.**
- 46. **And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,**
- 47. Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. Acts 2:37-47.

After Pentecost Peter is seen preaching the soon coming of Jesus Christ, saying we are living in the last days. The people who listen are cut to the quick and cry out what shall we do?

If these new Christians did not believe that Jesus was coming very soon, then why do we see them selling all of their possessions and the living together breaking bread with one another?

In much of the new testament, we see Paul who also warns of the nearness of Christ's return.

- 11. And that, **knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.**
- 12. **The night is far spent, the day is at hand:** let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.
- 13. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.
- 14. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. Romans 13:11-14.

It is very interesting how Paul puts it: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. It seems that maybe some were growing weary, and Paul wanted all to again realize the nearness of His coming.

In the next verses we see that Paul even recommends that it is not good not even to marry!

- 25. Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful.
- 26. I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, I say, that it is good for a man so to be.
- 27. Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.
- 28. But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.
- 29. But this I say, **brethren, the time is short:** it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;
- 30. And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not;
- 31. And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for **the fashion of this world passeth away.** 1 Corinthians 7:25-31.

It is a good thing that they did not listen to Paul on this or else the church might not have survived the years ahead. Never the less, we see Paul saying that because the time is so short, it is better if you never got married. And those of you who are married, act as if you are not married!

Below, we see Paul instruct the people to be careful because they were living in the last days.

6. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.
7. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.
8. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.
9. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.
10. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.
11. **Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.**
12. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 1 Corinthians 10:6-12.

Paul speaks to the corinthians assuring them that the coming of Christ was so near that "not all of us will sleep".

51. Behold, I shew you a mystery; **We shall not all sleep**, but we shall all be changed,
52. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52.

After some time people started to get worried because one by one people were dying. Weren't we all to be here in the flesh when Jesus comes?

So Paul encourages them by showing them that those who will sleep (die) will be raised up when Jesus comes to see Him come!

13. But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.
14. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.
15. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that **we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord** shall not prevent them which are asleep.
16. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
17. Then **we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air**: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
18. Wherefore comfort one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

Notice the phrase: "we which are alive and remain". Paul thought that the time was extremely near.

1. But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.
2. For yourselves know perfectly that **the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night**.
3. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; **then sudden destruction cometh upon them**, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.
4. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.
5. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.
6. Therefore **let us not sleep**, as do others; but **let us watch and be sober**.
7. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.
8. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.
9. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,
10. Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.
11. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.

The following scripture speak of the closeness of Christ coming.

22. If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema **Maranatha**. 1 Corinthians 16:22.
(**Maranatha means, O Lord, come!**)
5. Let your moderation be known unto all men. **The Lord is at hand**. Philippians 4:5.

26. For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but **now once in the end of the world** hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. Hebrews 9:26.
25. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, **as ye see the day approaching**. Hebrews 10:25.

James, I understand him to be one of the elder brothers of Jesus from Joseph's side, not Mary's side) speaks of the nearness of the end and the fact that all the possessions of the wicked will amount to nothing in the end.

1. Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.
2. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten.
3. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together **for the last days**.
4. Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.
5. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.
6. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.
7. Be patient therefore, brethren, **unto the coming of the Lord**. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.
8. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for **the coming of the Lord draweth nigh**.
9. Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, **the judge standeth before the door**. James 5:1-9.

Peter, in addition to his first sermon recorded in Acts 2, often spoke of the nearness of the end.

3. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
4. To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,
5. Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in **the last time**.
6. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:
7. That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:
8. Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:
9. Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.
10. Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:
11. Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.
12. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into. 1 Peter 1:3-12.
18. Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;
19. But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:
20. Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest **in these last times for you**, 1 Peter 1:18-20.
7. But **the end of all things is at hand**: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.
17. **For the time is come that judgment must begin** at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? 1 Peter 4:7,17.

Peter also had to face discouragement. In the following scripture, we see Peter explaining why the second coming

isn't coming as fast as they originally figured.

1. This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:
2. That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:
3. Knowing this first, that **there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,**
4. And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.
5. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:
6. Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:
7. But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.
8. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.
9. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
10. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.
11. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,
12. **Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God,** wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?
13. Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.
14. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.
15. And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;
16. As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.
17. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.
18. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. II Peter 3:1-18.

We see John speaking of the nearness of the end just like the others.

18. Little children, **it is the last time:** and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby **we know that it is the last time.** 1 John 2:18.
28. And now, little children, abide in him; that, **when he shall appear,** we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. 1 John 1:28.
1. The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things **which must shortly come to pass;** and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:
2. Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.
3. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: **for the time is at hand.** Revelation 1:1-3.
20. He which testifieth these things saith, **Surely I come quickly.** Amen. **Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**
21. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. Revelation 22:20-21.

Conclusions

Why Did God tell His people that He is coming soon?

Why would I show you this topic? I am troubled because there are certain arguments in the Christian community that would tend to reverse the benefit that we can gain from the scriptures. The two arguments I hear is this:

1. Some are troubled that Both Jesus and God would lie about when Jesus was coming again.
2. Some say that the prophecies were written especially for God's people living when the books were written.
Not now, not for the last days!

It is clear when reading the New Testament, that it's writers believed that Jesus was coming for them very shortly. In their letters to God's people, they outlined what was to come as if it were coming in their day.

We would also have to say that Paul and the other apostles wrote of God's soon coming to specific people and churches that they knew; because In their heart, they thought that the people they personally knew (in their day) was to be the last generation of this Earth!

The apostles thought Jesus would come in their day, but He did not. Instead, what Paul, John and the other apostles were describing was really to happen way in the future, the future that is to occur in the last generation.

If this is true, then can we continue to say that all the books of the Bible were only written for those who lived in the past. No! I should say not!

All along, God has designed things so that God's book would always be relevant to God's people because the Bible is pointing to an event that is yet to happen. It is to happen in the last days of this Earth's history.

So I feel that the Books of the Bible were written especially for the last generation of this world. This is true whether the writers of the Bible were aware of this fact or not. God designed it by limiting their knowledge of when this world would end. He didn't lie, He just did not tell us everything.

It was in love that God allowed first the writers and then the readers to believe that God was coming in their day. So that made the book special to every generation that is able to read the books of the Bible. Because they felt God was coming in their day, it actually changed their whole outlook on life. Missionaries have covered the whole globe telling people about Jesus' soon coming. God has probably saved people's lives by doing this. It is one of the best gifts that God could have given us!

Did Jesus Himself Lie?

Some are also troubled that maybe Jesus Himself may have lied about when the end was to occur. Here are the strongest quotes I can find from Jesus' own words:

21. And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.
22. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.
23. But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, **Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.** Matthew 10:21-23

Jesus is saying that it will be a very short time: "Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the son of man be come". Here is another very interesting quote from Jesus:

27. **"For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each**

according to his works.

28. Assuredly, I say to you, **there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.**" Matthew 16:27-28

Here Jesus says that some of them standing there will not see death till they see the second coming.

I think that many have thought that what Peter James and John saw on the Mount of Transfiguration was what Jesus was talking about. However, in verse 27, Jesus specifically mentions that He will be coming in the glory of His Father and with His angels. This is the second coming, not merely the transfiguration on the mountain.

The prophets were not told by God when things were to occur. Could it be that Jesus Himself was not told the time when He was on Earth as a man?

32. "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, **nor the Son**, but only the Father. Mark 13:32

Jesus here tells His disciples that even He does not know when things are to occur. So, what He said, when He was on earth, is what He believed as a man but not as God with God-Knowledge. He received information from God just like the prophets did in their time. The Father did not tell Him everything.

After Jesus died and rose from the dead, He appeared to His disciples several times. The last time He is with them personally, they ask Him, "Are you at this time going to restore Israel?"

6. Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"
7. And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons **which the Father has put in His own authority.**
8. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:6-8

Jesus does not inform us whether He then knew, however, He did say that it is not for us to know times or seasons before they happen.

All along, God has designed things so that God's book would always be relevant to God's people because the Bible is pointing to an event that is yet to happen. It is to happen in the last days of this Earth's history.

So, again I have to say that it was in love that God allowed first the writers and then the readers of the Bible to believe that God was coming in their day. So that made the Bible special to every generation that is able to read the books of the Bible. Because they felt God was coming in their day, it actually changed their whole outlook on life. Missionaries have covered the whole globe telling people about Jesus' soon coming. God has probably saved people's lives by doing this. It is one of the best gifts that God could have given us!

The Last Generation

But it is the last Generation that will experience the ultimate help from these scriptures since it is they that will actually experience the things described in the prophecies of the last days! (Especially Daniel and Revelation)

I believe that we are living in the last generation. How do I know that? I know that If God waits much longer, there might not be anything left to save. It seems that we are in the process of completely destroying our world.

There are so many issues today that involve the health of our planet. Nuclear war (Countries like Iran etc. are presently picking up nuclear capabilities. These countries are so unstable, that anything could happen. Remember, most of the countries described in Daniel and Revelation are very unstable), Biological war (There are tons stockpiled of both chemical and biological, of which a test tube of the stuff can destroy whole cities!), Pollution (today anything from frogs to coral reefs are dying off yet the political leaders of the world don't seem to be able to get their act together. Not too many years in the future, it will be man that is dying off!), The accumulation of

carbon dioxide gases (warming up the whole earth, thus changing its weather (making weather much more violent and unstable) and increasing the water level of the oceans.) is a hot topic that world leaders are using to bring about heavy laws.

Politically our world is ripe for a new world order to set up a world wide religion that is antagonistic to Bible based values. If you read my [harmony of prophecy](#), you will see that one of the major sources of trouble is a [world wide system](#) that is set up for the purpose of setting Satan as ruler of the world and also to persecute God's people. It is easy to see that the things spoken in Revelation and Daniel are about to be played out in world events.

The apostles thought it would happen in their day, but it is to happen in our day. We are the ones who will be able to open up both Daniel and Revelation and see that it is speaking of world events of the last days (our last days on Earth as well!).

So what do we do with the Bible? We can read the Bible with the knowledge that it was written for our day. Also remember that the prophecies, described mostly in Daniel and Revelation, should really be pointing to the last days. Not some time in the past. So we can start looking for prophecy to be fulfilled in our day. Not small bits here and there, instead, we will see the whole prophecy fulfilled.

Daniel was told to: shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. Daniel 12:4

Daniel's book was closed until the time of the end. But then, Daniel was promised that knowledge about the book would be increased and people would run to and fro, in the book to understand its meaning in the last days.

Finally, we see that John was given a book to eat: "And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. Revelation 10:9-19.

This verse is depicting God's people, in the end of time, who finally understand the little books of Daniel and Revelation (eating the book). The book is sweet as honey because their understanding is suddenly increased. However when they start living through the experience of the last days, as described in the little book, it will be a very bitter experience!

The bitter experience does not last forever! One day soon Jesus will come in the clouds to take us all with Him, just as He has promised he would do.

Remember, the Lord truly loves us to the extent that He wants us to live with Him. This is not wishful thinking. He even now is working on our behalf to save us from sin. He is now preparing to take us home with Him. So let's plan to be among the saved. This will be the biggest homecoming that we will ever experience. I am sure that the whole universe of created beings are also looking forward to this event. We must not miss our chance to witness and feel the happiness of those who love the Lord by living with Him!

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